(d) and (e) Public sector banks formulate schemes on their own and also participate in the schemes sponsored by the Government like Special Foodgrains Production Programme, Wasteland Development, Forest Plantation Lift Irrigation schemes etc. by meeting the credit needs of the farmers

[*English*]

Foreign Tours by Officers

454 SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the foreign tours of Government officers and the officers of Public Sector Undertakings on Government expenses,

(b) if so, the number of Government officers and the officers of Public Sector Undertakings who went on foreign tours on Government expense during the last six months and the reasons necessitating their visits and

(c) the achievements made by them during their foreign visits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) (a) Yes, Sir

Government have imposed a ban on foreign tours of Government officers with certain exceptions which, inter-alia, include tours for commercial, aid or foreign policy negotiations The Department of Public Enterprises have also been asked to take similar action in respect of all Public Sector Undertakings

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible

[*Translation*]

Review of Functioning of Officers Responsible for Checking Smuggling of Gold

455 SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of officers responsible to check the smuggling of gold

(b) whether any erring officers or employees responsible for checking smuggling of gold have been arrested in this connection, and

(c) if so, the names and designations of such officers and the action taken so far against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[*English*]

Outstanding Excise Duty

456 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of Central Excise Duty over Rs one crore and above